

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Canceled)
2. (Withdrawn) An emergency reporting apparatus for a vehicle, comprising:
 - a microphone;
 - a loudspeaker;
 - a handsfree system circuit;means for allowing handsfree two-way speech communication with an emergency report receiving center via the microphone, the loudspeaker, and the handsfree system circuit; and
 - a volume control circuit connected to the loudspeaker for automatically controlling a volume level of sound generated by the loudspeaker at a predetermined constant level or higher during two-way speech communication between said emergency report receiving center and said emergency reporting apparatus;wherein the volume control circuit controls the volume level at the predetermined constant level, and inhibits a user from changing the volume level.
3. (Withdrawn) An emergency reporting apparatus for a vehicle, comprising:
 - a microphone;
 - a loudspeaker;
 - a handsfree system circuit;means for allowing handsfree two-way speech communication with an emergency report receiving center via the microphone, the loudspeaker, and the handsfree system circuit; and
 - a volume control circuit connected to the loudspeaker for automatically controlling a volume level of sound generated by the loudspeaker at a predetermined constant level or higher during two-way speech communication between said emergency report receiving center and said emergency reporting apparatus;

wherein the volume control circuit comprises means for controlling the volume level at the predetermined constant level during emergency reporting communication, and means for allowing a user to change the volume level.

4. (Withdrawn) An emergency reporting apparatus for a vehicle, comprising:

a microphone;

a loudspeaker;

a handsfree system circuit;

means for allowing handsfree two-way speech communication with an emergency report receiving center via the microphone, the loudspeaker, and the handsfree system circuit; and

a volume control circuit connected to the loudspeaker for automatically controlling a volume level of sound generated by the loudspeaker at a predetermined constant level or higher during two-way speech communication between said emergency report receiving center and said emergency reporting apparatus;

wherein the volume control circuit comprises first means for controlling the volume level at the predetermined constant level during emergency reporting communication, second means for allowing a user to change the volume level after the first means controls the volume level at the predetermined constant level, and third means for preventing the volume level from moving out of a predetermined range after the volume level is changed via the second means.

5-7. (Canceled)

8. (Withdrawn) An emergency reporting network system comprising:

an emergency report receiving center;

a communication network; and

emergency reporting apparatuses connectable with the emergency report receiving center via the communication network;

wherein each of the emergency reporting apparatuses comprises the emergency reporting apparatus of one of claims 2-4.

9-12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously presented) In a vehicle including an audio system, a method of reporting an emergency, comprising the steps of:

allowing handsfree speech communication with an emergency report receiving center via a microphone and a loudspeaker; and

using a loudspeaker of the audio system as the handsfree speech communication loudspeaker; and

in cases where the loudspeaker of the audio system is wrong, replacing the loudspeaker of the audio system with another loudspeaker of the audio system and thereby using another loudspeaker of the audio system as the handsfree speech communication loudspeaker;

wherein the replacing step comprises the step of replacing the loudspeaker of the audio system with another loudspeaker of the audio system in response to a loudspeaker change requirement signal transmitted from the emergency report receiving center.

14. (Original) A method as recited in claim 13, wherein a DTMF signal is used as the loudspeaker change requirement signal.

15-21. (Canceled)

22. (Withdrawn) An emergency reporting apparatus for a vehicle, comprising:

a microphone;

a loudspeaker;

a handsfree system circuit;

means for allowing handsfree two-way speech communication with an emergency report receiving center via the microphone, the loudspeaker, and the handsfree system circuit; and

a volume control circuit connected to the loudspeaker for automatically controlling a volume level of sound generated by the loudspeaker at a predetermined constant level or higher during emergency reporting in response to a desired volume signal.

23. (Withdrawn) An emergency reporting apparatus as recited in claim 22, further comprising means for preventing the volume level of sound generated by the loudspeaker from being decreased to less than the predetermined constant level.